



eVoucher is time saving

— Page 9



CAROLINA FLYER

Vol.13, No.51

Willing—Able—Ready

Friday, December 18, 2009

Pope Airmen Report from the Front:



1st Lt. Jimmy Livingston receives surprise during deployment

By Senior Airman Kris Levasseur
Staff Writer

Most military members expect to deploy at some point in their careers – thousands of servicemembers are sent all around the globe in order to protect and serve their

country, but for one Pope lieutenant, his deployment took an unexpected turn. 1st Lt. Jimmy Livingston, 3rd Aerial Port Squadron, expected to spend his time at Camp Phoenix, but due to unforeseen circumstances, ended up working at Kabul

International Airport. “I arrived in Kabul, Afghanistan then convoyed from Kabul International Airport to Camp Phoenix,” said Lieutenant Livingston. “I was under the tactical control of the Army, assigned to the 634th Logistics Task Force and believed I would

be working at Camp Phoenix. It was late in the evening when we finally got to Phoenix and when personnel from the 634th LTF came to pick me up at the welcome center, I was greeted with a resounding, ‘Welcome to Phoenix, Lieutenant Rizzo!’” “As it turns out, they were expecting a different lieutenant I knew. He had been sent to Camp Eggers. Consequently, I spent

the next three days at Camp Phoenix waiting for the Army to decide what they were going to do with me. When they found out I was an aerial porter, I was ordered to pack up my things because I was being moved to Kabul Afghan International Airport, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization installation, to work with the U.S. Movement Control Team.”

See Reports page 8

BRAC: Joint Installation Transfer Conference

By Frank Caras
43rd Airlift Wing

Last week the Air Force and Army held a Joint Conference to discuss the transfer of Pope to the Army. The Air Force Team was lead by Col. Paul Murphy and cadre from Air Mobility Command. The Air Force team included members from Air Combat Command, Air Education and Training Command, Air Force Special Operations Command, Air Force Reserve Command and representatives from the Air Staff. The Army’s team was lead by Mr. John Hunter and cadre from the Installation Management Command, including members from IMCOM-South East Region and the Department of the Army. The working groups included participation from the 43rd Airlift Wing, 440th Airlift Wing, 18 Air Support Operations Group, Combat Control School, Special Tactics Squadron and the Fort Bragg Garrison.

The Army and Air Force agreed to establish October 2010 as the beginning of the transition period between Pope and Bragg, and March 2011 as the date for when all transitions between the 43rd AW and the Fort Bragg Garrison are to be completed. The transition period, Oct. 10, 2010 – Mar 11, 2011, is the time period when the majority of all functions transferring from the 43rd AW to both the Fort Bragg Garrison and 440th AW will occur. Personnel actions will commence during calendar year 2010 on both the civilian and military side of the house to meet the March 2011 transition end date. Col. James Johnson, 43rd AW

See BRAC page 8

FM Annual visit

PHOTO BY ROBERT BUCHANAN
Col. Mark Brown (right), Air Mobility Command Financial Manager, visited Pope Dec. 10 and 11 for the Joint Installation Transfer Conference and to meet with the 43rd Comptroller Squadron to discuss local financial management and budget issues. He attended a mission brief where he learned about Pope’s unique mission, the new Airmen’s Campus, and toured the base with Col. James Johnson, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander. He was also briefed by squadron commanders on their needs.



UP NEXT:

End of a great year

Another great year has come to an end for Team Pope. This is the final issue of the Carolina Flyer until 2010. A Year in Review will be delivered Dec. 29 and the January 15, 2010 issue will be dedicated to BRAC-related issues.



H1N1

The H1N1 Flu Vaccine is available at the 43rd Medical Group Immunizations Clinic for all non-active duty family members. The H1N1 Flu Vaccine shot is also available for pregnant active duty personnel. For more information, call the Immunizations Clinic at 394-4738.

Eye on safety

DUI Tracker

DUI tracking is current as of Wednesday

Days since last DUI18
2009 18
DUIs for 2008 20

AADD Saves
This week 4
This year 261



For a free, anonymous ride home midnight to 6 a.m. Friday to Sunday, call Airmen Against Drunk Driving at 394-AADD/2233.

FLYER PERSPECTIVE



Each week the 43rd Airlift Wing highlights outstanding Airmen

Col. James Johnson, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander, presented his Commander's Coin to Master Sgts. Peter Lozoya and Davonna Chambers, 43rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron, for their exceptional performance beyond the call of duty.

The duo provided outstanding support as lead inspectors for the Industrial Hygiene portion of the external Environmental, Occupational, Safety and Health Comprehensive Assessment Management Program.

Sergeant Lozoya promoted to master sergeant under the Stripes for Exceptional Performers program in 2008, and was selected as Squadron and Group SNCO of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2009. He hopes to be assigned overseas for his next assignment, but is open to any new experience.

Sergeant Chambers is six classes away from completing a bachelor's in legal studies with a certification in paralegal. Upon



PHOTO BY 2ND LT. CAMMIE QUINN

Top: Col. James Johnson, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander, presents Master Sgt. Davonna Chambers, 43rd Aerospace Medical Squadron, a Commander's Coin in the Pope Dental Clinic.

Bottom: Col. James Johnson, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander, presents Master Sgt. Peter Lozoya, 43rd Aerospace Medical Squadron, a Commander's Coin in the Pope Dental Clinic.

completion, she plans to immediately begin work toward a Master's degree. Her goal is to open a private family law practice and later to be a juvenile and family court judge.

Off duty, Sergeant Lozoya enjoys bicycling, running, music, playing drums, movies, soccer, bowling and spending time with his

family. He and his wife, Sylvia, have one son, Alex.

During her off duty time, Sergeant Chambers enjoys hiking, hot air ballooning, sky diving, movies, theater, reading, volunteer work and spending time with her family. She has one son, Jamil.

AMC Commander: 'This holiday a time to celebrate, relax; but please make safety a priority'

By Gen. Raymond Johns Jr.
Commander, Air Mobility Command

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. – Since taking command just four short weeks ago, I can honestly say I'm more excited than ever to be back in Air Mobility Command! Whether I am visiting our Guard and Reserve partners on the East Coast or our deployed Airmen in Southwest Asia, it is clear to me you are the finest Airmen in the U.S. Air Force. The intensity and overwhelming passion with which you accomplish your mission impresses me.

You and your family are the heartbeat of this great command. Your tireless efforts and extraordinary

teamwork gets our mission done.

This holiday is a time to celebrate and relax with family and friends – you've earned it – but please make safety a priority. Don't let drinking and driving, fatigue, speeding or failure to use seatbelts ruin your holiday. Have a plan before you set out and stick to it. I want to see each of you after the holidays strong and healthy.

Holidays can also be a stressful time, especially for those who can't be near their loved ones. Remember those who are spending the holidays alone and let them know you care. Make their holiday a little brighter with a phone call; invite them to dinner or keep them in your



thoughts and prayers. It's an honor to be your commander. Your incredible spirit

makes our command and Air Force great. From the Johns family to yours, please have a

joyful holiday season and we look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!

Commander's Helpline

The Commander's Helpline is your direct link to Col. James C. Johnson, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander. If you have worked through normal channels and aren't satisfied, Helplines are an opportunity to ask questions, compliment someone or make suggestions. You must include a name and phone number for a response.

Helplines of general interest will be published in the Carolina Flyer, others will be answered by letter or phone call.

Remember, the most efficient way to solve a problem is to talk directly to the responsible office or follow your chain of command.

You can call the Commander's Helpline at 394-4357 or e-mail to commanders.helpline@pope.af.mil.



Helpful numbers	
Emergency	
(Base Phone/home phone)	911
Cell Phone	394-0911
Law Enforcement Desk	394-2800/2808
Helping Hand Hot line	394-2777
Crime Stop	394-4111
Pope Clinic	394-4258
Pass and Registration	394-2694
Security Force	394-2800
Legal Office	394-2341
Chapel	394-2677
Military Personnel Flight	394-2276
Pope Club, collocated	497-4031
TRICARE Customer Service	1-877-TRI-CARE
Civil Engineers	394-2821
Inspector General	394-2302
Family Support Center	394-2538
Child Development Center	394-4323
Kitty Hawk Inn Dining Facility	394-4377
Housing Management	394-4867
Bowling Center	394-2891
Fitness Center	394-2671
Finance (Military Pay)	394-1408/1412
AAFES Shopette	497-8181
Public Affairs	394-4183
Pope/Ft Bragg American Red Cross	396-1231/877-272-7337



History Corner

A "Smoking" Christmas Menu

By Dan Knickrehm
Base Historian

This weekend I attended my first official Air Force Christmas party. The Wing Staff Agencies had a nice evening with hors d'ovres and a special presentation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" in downtown Fayetteville. The food was good, the company was better and the play was great. I thought it was a wonderful way to spend time with people I normally only see at work.

I did wonder however, what other units were doing for their parties. I am sure there are many different renditions of the "official" holiday office party taking place all over Pope this time of year. As usual I began thinking about what has gone on before on Pope and remembered there was a copy of a 1938 Christmas menu from Pope in the archives. I brought the menu out of storage today and looked at it once more to marvel at how personable it was.

The small pamphlet was titled "Air Corps Troops, Pope Field, Fort Bragg, N.C." and displayed a few photos on the front cover.

A picture of Building 306 with a parachute over it, a few aircrafts, a balloon and balloon hangar, as well as the checkerboard aircraft hangars all grace the cover. Inside is a number of different types of information. There are personnel rosters from the 2nd Balloon Squadron, the 16th Observation Squadron and a roster of personnel attached from the 2nd Weather Squadron at Langley Field, Virginia. There are 243 names listed and one seemed pretty interesting. Clyde Womack's name listed under Privates First Class made me wonder if he might be connected with the Ft. Bragg hospital. After a bit of research I could find no connection. The hospital was named after Bryant Homer Womack who earned a posthumous Medal of Honor during the Korean War. Clyde Womack was not an immediate family member but some more remote connection may exist.

There are brief histories of both units in the pamphlet. The 2nd BS was originally organized Sept. 12, 1917 arrived in Europe during World War I on Dec.

See Menu page 8

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U.S. AIR FORCE

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FLYER NEWS

Jefferson Fitness, Aquatic Training Facility



Pope, Family, friends honor fallen Airman

PHOTOS BY RHONDA GRIFFIN

The new Jefferson Fitness and Aquatic Training Facility at the Combat Control School was dedicated Dec. 10 in memory of Tech. Sgt. William Jefferson Jr., who was a member of the 21st Special Tactics Squadron and former Combat Control School Instructor. Family, friends and fellow Airmen honored Sergeant Jefferson during the ceremony for his ultimate sacrifice on March 22, 2008, during his deployment to Afghanistan.

Pope and Fort Bragg test Low Cost Low Altitude Parachutes

By 2nd Lt. Cammie Quinn
Editor

The Air Force and Army joined forces to assess the suitability of cargo parachutes. Between Nov. 16 to Dec 10 they tested how low C-130s could drop cargo resupply bundles rigged at higher payload weight with low-cost parachute configurations.

The Low Cost Low Altitude parachutes are a specialized subset of the Low Cost Aerial Delivery Systems family of products. Scott Martin, the LCLA program-manager explained the parachutes not only increase accuracy, but save money and increase reliability of drops.

The parachutes promise to bring a number of improvements to the resupply process. Airdrops must be flexible, the LCLA allows pilots to drop at very low altitudes and visually identify an impromptu drop zone established specifically for emergency resupply. By decreasing altitude requirements, Soldiers on roving

patrols will no longer be dependent on rotary wing assets for resupply.

The chutes are a low-cost – on average 50 percent less than the cost of traditional airdrop equipment. As a one-time use system, Soldiers are not required to recover or account for the parachutes.

“Recovery (of the parachute) – or ‘retrograde’ as they call it, has been a huge burden on the deployed troops,” Mr. Martin said. As counterintuitive as it is, he explained these disposable parachutes do, in fact, save money. The most remarkable thing according him is the LCLA can use out-of-service T-10 paratrooper parachutes that would “normally be destroyed and in the landfill. It’s very satisfying to see these venerable T-10s repurposed and given a second service life,” he added.

Accuracy is another benefit of the new LCLA parachutes. While other parachutes are equipped with high-tech GPS, the

accuracy they achieve comes at a hefty price. LCLA chutes offer a low-tech alternative that achieves its accuracy by reducing the amount of time the payload is in the air rather than relying on expensive navigational systems. “The specialized rigging and packing techniques that allow the LCLA parachutes to be dropped from only 150 feet above the ground.” This unique accuracy capability may allow supplies to be dropped directly into the confines of Forward Operating Bases rather than requiring Soldiers to secure large drop zones outside the secure perimeter of the FOB as they do now.

To test these chutes, C-130s were loaded up with bundles of sand to simulate water, ammunition and other supplies normally deployed to the Area of Responsibility.

Master Sgt. Mike Cherry, Air Force Liaison to the Army’s Quartermaster School and Center at Fort Lee, explained that in order



PHOTO BY 1ST LT. CAMMIE QUINN

to meet the demand for immediate resupply, the load must be deployed with accuracy, while maintaining the integrity and survivability of the contents within the box.

LCLA has been a rapidly fielded, organic Army capability for several years now. The current capability is limited to 450 pounds per bundle and are dropped individually by smaller contract aircraft to reduce the burden on over-tasked Army aircraft. “C-130s certainly have

greater range and capacity than the (other aircraft) but they also have the possibility of airdropping at night when the (other) aircraft are prohibited from flying.”

To accomplish the task and determine if, in fact, the parachutes are the best bet, the C-130s made several passes over the “race track,” that is, the predetermined pathway.

Capt. Bill Walker and 1st Lts. Nate Parsons and Logan Ventre, 2nd Airlift Squadron, called in the clearances while aircrew from 440th, 145th and 19th Airlift Squadrons executed the test plan in accordance with the new procedures. The team had eight minutes to measure the accuracy of where the supplies were dropped. Ten drops were conducted in the initial round of tests; four at 500 feet, four and 300 feet and two at 150 feet.

Two phases of tests were conducted. The first phase refined the procedures for the test plan and aided in developing the cadre for the final plan

which originally consisted of three instructor pilots, two instructor navigators and three instructor loadmasters. Finding from the first phase suggested removing the 500 feet drops and adjusting the 150 foot drop to 200 feet.

Phase two predominantly allowed aircrew from other bases to get spun up on the training procedures. The results of this phase were two-fold. Not only were results for the LCLA chutes recorded, but the crew also tested the ability to vary aircrew duties within the aircraft, explained Lieutenant Parsons. In this phase, pilots, rather than navigators, directed when the drops occur, allowing the navigator to look ahead and plan escape routes.

The Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate is reviewing the LCLA parachute survivability data. “I am hopeful the Air Mobility Command decision to airdrop LCLA from the C-130 won’t be far behind,” Mr. Martin said.

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ABC MATTRESS DISCOUNTERS
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HOLIDAY INN BORDEAUX
HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

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POPE TALKS

By Senior Airman Kris Levasseur
Staff writer

What are your holiday plans this year?



“My wife and I are going to visit my sisters in Washington.”

— Specialist Anthony Sualog
4th Psyop Group



“My husband and I are taking leave to Pittsburgh to visit our families.”

— 1st Lt. Karissa Skiba
43rd Comptroller Squadron



“I will be traveling to Boston to visit my family.”

— Staff Sgt. Lonie Theriault
43rd Communications Squadron



“I will be spending time with my friends and having a good dinner.”

— Airman 1st Class Galen De Lara
43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron



Kudos ALS graduates

John L. Levitow Award

■ Senior Airman Emily Patrick, Air Force Special Operations Command

Academic Achievement Distinguished Graduate

■ Staff Sergeant Micah Terrell, Air Force Special Operations Command
■ Senior Airman Matthew Hixson, 43rd Communications Squadron
■ Senior Airman Tanisha Lewis, 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Leadership Award

■ Senior Airman Tanisha Lewis, 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron

Class A

■ Senior Airman Michelle Brazell, 43rd Aerospace Medicine Squadron
■ Senior Airman Nathaniel Collette, 43rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman David DeHaan, AF Special

Operations Command
■ Senior Airman Ashley Furgason, 43rd AMXS
■ Senior Airman Julia Garcia-Espinosa, 2nd Airlift Squadron
■ Senior Airman Brandon Huelsman, 43rd Logistics Readiness Squadron
■ Senior Airman Michael Jackson, 2nd AS
■ Senior Airman Christopher Ney, 18th Air Support Operations Group
■ Senior Airman Kishor Mahat, 43rd LRS
■ Senior Airman Drew Maglio, 21st Special Tactics Squadron
■ Senior Airman Jerry Marquez, 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron
■ Senior Airman Jesse Taylor, AF SOC
■ Senior Airman Lucia Holly, 43rd Airlift Wing

Class B

■ Senior Airman Tamrat Ararsa, 43rd AES
■ Senior Airman Malachi

Ezion-Geber, 440th Maintenance Squadron
■ Senior Airman Ashley Felix, 43rd Security Forces Squadron
■ Senior Airman Jacob Harvey, 2nd AS
■ Senior Airman Matthew Hixson, 43rd Communications Squadron
■ Senior Airman Marc Rodrigues, 43rd Comptroller Squadron
■ Senior Airman Carrie Hurley, 3rd Aerial Port Squadron
■ Senior Airman Morgan Morris, 21st STS
■ Senior Airman Emily Patrick, AF SOC
■ Senior Airman Louis Schneck, 14th Air Support Operations Squadron
■ Senior Airman David Teats, 3rd APS
■ Senior Airman Matthew West, 2nd AS
■ Senior Airman Duncan Hilsabeck, 3rd APS

Class C

■ Senior Airman Shawn Banion, 43rd AMDS
■ Senior Airman Timothy Cross, 2nd AS
■ Senior Airman Kristina Shannon, 43rd AW
■ Senior Airman Jennifer Looney, AF SOC
■ Senior Airman Justin Grate, 3rd APS
■ Senior Airman Gary Oxley, 3rd APS
■ Senior Airman Ryan Brooks, 3rd APS
■ Senior Airman Garrett Romig, 21st STS
■ Senior Airman Lindsey Ryiz, 18th Weather Squadron
■ Senior Airman Sean Van Ness, 43rd SFS
■ Senior Airman Marco Webb, 43rd AES
■ Senior Airman Lashara Williams, 2nd AS
■ Senior Airman Michael Jones, 43rd SFS
■ Senior Airman April Holmes, 43rd LRS



Quarterly birthday breakfast

PHOTO BY 2ND LT. CAMMIE QUINN
Senior Airman Robert King (left) and Airman John Woods, both from 43rd Force Support Squadron, prepare an omelet for a customer at the Quarterly Birthday Breakfast at the Kitty Hawk Inn Dec. 5.

visit the Carolina Flyer on the Web
www.pope.af.mil



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NEWS

Briefs

■ Weapon Policy

In accordance with Section 930, Title 18, United States Federal Criminal Code: “Possession of firearms and dangerous weapons in federal facilities, buildings or installations is illegal. Anyone who attempts to or violates this provision shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than a year, or both.”

■ Contest/Party at the Library

The Pope Library’s annual Gingerbread House Contest is today at 4 p.m. Entries are judged on originality, creativity and decorating detail. The Library’s holiday part follows at 4:30 p.m. and includes an afternoon of games, refreshments, holiday cheer and Santa. Arrive early for photos. For more information, call 394-2195.

■ 5K Jingle Bell Walk/Run

Join in the holiday fun during the 5K Jingle Bell Walk/Run at 2 p.m. today at the Pope Fitness Center track. Bring your holiday spirit, hats, bells and mistletoe!

■ Kids Holiday Bowling

Bring the kids to Pope’s Bowling Center for special prices on holiday bowling Dec. 21 through 24 and Dec. 28 through 31. Games and shoes are only \$1 each. For more information, call 394-2891.

■ Christmas Meal

The Kitty Hawk Inn is serving a special Christmas meal Dec. 25 from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Items include salad bar, roast turkey, baked ham, roast beef, vegetables, fruits and

desserts. The facility will be open to all active duty military members, retirees and their families. Menu prices are a la carte. For more information, call 394-4377.

■ New Year’s Eve Party

Looking for a way to spend New Year’s Eve? The Bowling Center is hosting its annual Youth New Year’s Eve Bowling Party Dec. 31 from 5 until 8 p.m., and its New Year’s Eve Bowling Party from 9 p.m. until 2 a.m. Tickets are now for sale at the bowling center and pre-paid reservations are required. For more information, call 394-2891.

■ Hurricanes game

The Carolina Hurricanes will face off against the Stars Wednesday at the RBC Center in Raleigh. Tickets are available at Information, Tickets and Travel. For more information, call 394-4478 or 394-5462.

■ Holiday Show

The Palace Theatre of Myrtle Beach presents Christmastime Holiday Show starring The Twelve Irish Tenors. Performances are Mondays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and matinees on Wednesdays and Thursdays through Jan. 2. For reservations, call ITT at 394-4470 or 394-5462.

■ Myrtle Beach Tickets

Let ITT take you to the show. Tickets are available to a variety of performances, including the Palace Theatre, Dixie Stampede, Legends in Concert, the Alabama Theatre and Medieval Times. For more information, call 394-5050.

■ Football Frenzy

Football Frenzy is back with

a vengeance! Come to the Pope Club every Sunday and watch your favorite NFL team. Become a member of the club and you could have a chance to win one of two all-expense paid trips to an upcoming NFL game or the Superbowl. The club is open every Sunday for the duration of the NFL season with all games available for viewing.

■ Super Bowl Bingo

Get your Super Bowl Bingo tickets at the Pope Club or ITT for a chance to win huge prizes. Tickets are \$50 for members and \$60 for non-members.

■ MyAirForceLife.com

MyAirForceLife.com is the place to visit for upcoming events! Register today for a chance to win iPod nanos, AAFES movie tickets and iTunes gift cards. Many contests also run throughout the year. The “My Air Force Life” T-shirt design contest ends Dec. 20. Design an Air Force T-shirt for a chance to win an Apple MacBook and Adobe CS4 Design Premium. Register today and find out why the Air Force is a great place to “Live, Work and Play!”

■ Pope College Programs

Twenty-four college degree programs continue to operate at Pope. These degree programs include Campbell University, Central Texas College and Webster University.

On-base colleges not remaining post-BRAC will offer degrees at the Ft. Bragg location; however, all college courses required to support completion of the Community College of the Air Force degree will continue to be offered at Pope post-

BRAC. Due to BRAC planning, some on-base colleges have made internal organizational changes, however, Team Pope can expect to encounter the same or a higher level of

quality services as usual. Any questions pertaining to on-base college degree programs can be sent directly to Alva. Anthony@pope.af.mil or phone 394-4692.

Turn your BEFORE into an AFTER

POPE'S BIGGEST LOSER

JANUARY 2 THRU APRIL 1
ACHIEVE OPTIMUM HEALTH
THIS NEW YEAR!
Pope Fitness Center can help you reach your goals with our motivating Pope's Biggest Loser program!

Register at the Fitness Center or call 394.2671 for more details.

KIDS Holiday BOWLING

\$1 Game
\$1 Shoes
Dec 21-24
Dec 28-31

'Tis the Season for Savings!

The Pope Bowling Center Pro Shop has the **LOWEST PRICES OF THE YEAR** on select merchandise for the bowler on your list!

For details, call 394.2891.

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HIBACHI GRILL SUPREME
BUFFET
A000,0A00,00A0
3 x 10.5
A000, 0A00, 00A0

Menu: A creative, holiday menu originating on Pope in 1917

■ from page 2 26, 1917, and was later sent to Ft. Bragg May 20, 1930. The 16th Observation Squadron was originally organized Jan. 16, 1917 and arrived in Europe on Dec. 25, 1917. They were activated at Pope Field, Fort Bragg, N.C. June 1, 1937. Spending their holiday on the way to war could not have been fun.

The menu contains numerous songs, jokes and warnings. There is a safety message as well in the form of a short poem. It is called “Epitaph” and reads: “With Violet cuddling in his arms, He drove a Ford – poor silly; Where he once held a violet, Now he holds a lily.”

The back cover has more interesting photos including the runway at Pope. But, the most interesting thing I found was the Christmas dinner menu itself. The list includes traditional holiday fare including oyster soup, ham, turkey and Waldorf salad, to name a few. Near the bottom of the list are two entries that create a stark difference between 1938 and present day parties. It seems that Muriel Senator Cigars and Assorted Cigarettes were an integral part of this holiday celebration.

If you would like to see the entire menu, I have uploaded it to the Historian EIM Web site and will be posted as a photo on **pope.af.mil**. Look for the link under 43rd AW; WSA, go to Pictures then Documents. I will try to include scanned versions of any documents I refer to in future articles at this location, so add it to your favorites.

BRAC: Meeting to discuss transitioning of Pope to Fort Bragg

■ from page 1

AW Commander, decided to establish March 1, 2010 as the date to register civilians into the Priority Placement Program; thus, requiring a unit manning document end date for civilians to be established March 1, 2011. Military positions drawing down in number and remaining in the 4rd3 Airlift Group will be accomplished in a timeline coordinated with the headquarters functional manager; all other military positions not remaining post-BRAC will have an end date of June 30, 2011.

The 43rd Medical Group will inactivate June 2010 and the 43rd Medical Squadron will be established to provide medical and dental care for active duty personnel assigned to Pope. Active duty dependants and retirees now seen at the Pope Clinic will continue to visit the Pope Clinic for medical care but under the care of the Fort Bragg (Womack) Army Hospital. The 43rd AW will inactivate in March 2011 and the 43rd AG will be established to execute the Green Ramp mission and to assist the 440th AW in operating the airfield. Pope real property will transfer to the Army in March 2011 at which point the Fort Bragg Garrison will assume responsibility for sustainment, security and protection of Pope Field real property.

The Joint Conference took an in-depth look and review of all transition plans and associated timelines for: personnel, services, operations, logistics, communications, contracting, installation and mission support, environmental, security, comptroller, chaplain, safety and medical. All areas, with some minor exceptions, were found to be achievable within the agreed timelines. The exceptions identified required further analysis before a final decision is made and

will be accomplished within the specified end dates established.

The next 15 to 18 months will be challenging times in that Team Pope and Fort Bragg have both a national interest missions to accomplish on a daily basis while also executing the remaining BRAC mandates and transitioning to their respective new post-BRAC end states. The 43rd AW and Fort Bragg leadership, joined by the headquarters staff, had nothing but praises for the end results achieved, the work accomplished, and the effort put forth by all the personnel involved in the Joint Conference.

Be sure to read the Jan. 15, 2010 issue of the Carolina Flyer which will be dedicated to BRAC-related issues.

Reports: Airman reflects on an accomplished deployment

■ from page 1

Because of the change, Lieutenant Livingston found himself as the assistant officer in charge of 12 people and responsible for the entire U.S. airlift coming in and out of KAIA with limited equipment available.

“Our equipment consisted of two forklifts, one 25,000-pound loader, and one 60,000-pound loader,” said Lieutenant Livingston. “This was all we had to support 11 forward operating bases and more than 24,000 coalition forces.”

Unfortunately, equipment wasn’t the only limiting factor for Lieutenant Livingston.

“We did not have the advantage of any of the systems we take for granted here in the U.S. because NATO would not allow any American software to be loaded on its network,” he said. “During the time I was there, we kept track of all inbound and outbound aircraft, 23,000 short tons of cargo and 105 short tons of mail by hand with a spreadsheet.”

While he was there, Lieutenant Livingston saw everything from weapons to food come through the cargo, but one shipment really stood out to him.

“My most memorable experience though was when we received a shipment of medical equipment for a new Afghan hospital,” he said. “There was enough to fill four 40-foot flatbed trucks. We got the equipment loaded for the doctor and when we finished, he came

to me, crying, thanking us for the fact that he would finally have a real hospital for his people.”

The lieutenant’s unit handled a wide variety of charitable goods, including 42,000 pounds of food for Afghan families.

According to Lieutenant Livingston, the first few months of the deployment were relatively quiet.

“We went about our business day after day,” he said. “However, as we got closer to the end of the deployment, the bottom started falling out. By late July, it was one rocket attack after another, one suicide bomber after another, one vehicle-borne improvised explosive device after another.

“The worst attack I experienced was five days before I left. It was Sept. 8. It was about 8 a.m. and I was preparing to leave the building I lived in when there was a huge BOOM! The building was shaken so hard that I thought we had been bombed. A vehicle borne improvised explosive device had rammed a vehicle carrying munitions at the main gate which was only 100 meters from where I lived. Glass was shattered, mirrors exploded outward and people were thrown out of beds and chairs. When I got into the hallway, there was so much dust and debris in the air, I thought our building was on fire. I grabbed my armor and my weapons and made for the bunker, encouraging others to hurry and get out of the building. When we

finally got the building evacuated, I secured the entrance and we waiting for another attack, all the time watching the smoke from the explosion spread over the area. We were very fortunate that no military personnel died in that explosion. Sadly, there were civilian casualties.”

Even though the lieutenant went through this unfortunate incident, he still looks back on his deployment as a positive experience.

“As I look back on my deployment, I’m astounded that we were able to accomplish so much with so little,” said Lieutenant Livingston. “To this day, I’m still trying to figure out how we managed to do the things we did with so few resources. For my part, I was blessed to have a great team that I would want to deploy with anytime.”

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ARMED FORCES
COMMUNICATIONS
414141 RH FF MAIN
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1905627
SAM’S WAREHOUSE CLUB
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Everyone Collects Information

By Staff Sgt. Krista Fitzgerald
43rd Airlift Wing, Antiterrorism Office



The holiday season is in full swing, and now more than ever, is time to be aware of suspicious activity such as scams and the potential of low-level collection of sensitive information.

There are several signs to be aware of, some are obvious, while others are usually only seen by the most vigilant.

If someone is taking pictures of the installation, report it immediately to the Eagle Eyes Program. Do not try to approach or follow them.

Make sure to report accurate information; get as much detail as possible. Even the smallest piece of information can be the key to solving a great puzzle. If the individual is in a vehicle, record the make, model, license plate number and color. This is very useful information for law enforcement to track down the person. A description of the person with as much detail also helps investigators.

Someone who is waiting around too long, or has no reason to be at a location are possible signs that the person is collecting information. If

the person tries to conceal their appearance with excessive clothing, even though the temperature disagrees with it, could be another sign. Seeing that the vendor has no interest in the customers that they are serving, or that their focus is elsewhere can be a key indicator.

When off base, do not flash credentials around or talk about work in an open setting. Leave work at work. It allows for those that don't need the information to overhear it. Today, individuals can never be sure who is or isn't collecting information. If someone is especially interested in what you are doing, where you work, or how the base works, this should raise a red flag. Sometimes this is harmless curiosity, but it is the one occasion you can't account for that could be detrimental.

Regardless if it is the holiday season or any other time of year, you are fighting everyday to protect the U.S. and all it stands for. This should include information protection. Be safe, stay alert and remain aware. If it doesn't look right — report it to the Eagle Eye Program at 394-2800.

eVoucher

the fast and easy way to file non-DTS travel voucher

By 1st Lt. Karrissa Skiba
43rd Comptroller Squadron

The 43rd Comptroller Squadron is rolling out a program that allows members to file travel vouchers in the comfort of their computer work stations. This program, called eVoucher, will allow active duty, Reserve, and civilians members to file non-Defense Travel System travel vouchers on a secure application where the members submit the vouchers online to the finance office instead of dropping off a manual travel voucher.

Effective Jan. 1, 2010, Pope will implement e-Voucher. This process is accomplished using a "Turbo Tax-style" approach to guide members in completing their travel vouchers through an interactive interview session that prompts the members for information. eVoucher can be accessed via a secure web site application, eFinance,

using a common access card and pin at <https://efinanceworkspace.wpafb.af.mil> or by accessing the Air Force Portal, selecting the "Money-Finance Central" option under the "Life & Career" tab and scrolling down the page to the "eFinance Workspace" hyperlink. Once the user navigates to the eFinance site, the system uses a question and answer session to guide the member through the travel voucher process from start to finish.

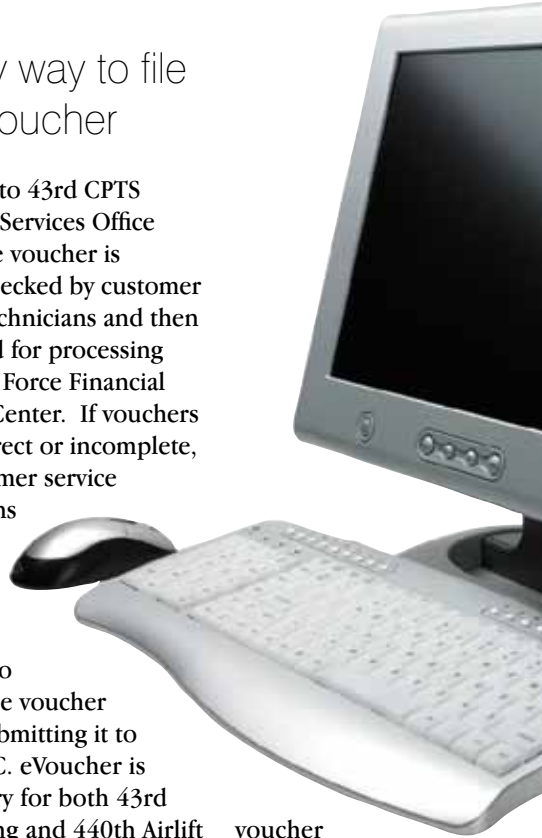
eVoucher empowers members to file their travel vouchers more efficiently. Like DTS, users are able to upload or fax supporting documentation (orders, receipts, etc.) Once the member completes their travel voucher, they then route the voucher to their supervisor in order to digitally sign as the reviewer. If applicable, the member can also route the travel voucher to the Approving Official. Once reviewed, the eVoucher

is routed to 43rd CPTS Financial Services Office where the voucher is quality-checked by customer service technicians and then submitted for processing to the Air Force Financial Services Center. If vouchers are incorrect or incomplete, the customer service technicians will contact the member in order to correct the voucher before submitting it to the AFFSC. eVoucher is mandatory for both 43rd Airlift Wing and 440th Airlift Wing members. For active duty, any vouchers that cannot be accomplished in DTS can be processed through eVoucher.

This program is intended to assist the warfighter and provide the utmost customer service through providing tools needed to operate in today's increasingly digital environment. In addition, eVoucher helps standardize and streamline the travel

voucher processes at the finance office and provides the AFFSC with complete and legible documentation, which in turn expedites voucher payment.

For more information, visit the 43rd Financial Services Office located in Bldg. 315 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., call 394-1300/1412 or send an email to finance@pope.af.mil.



We want to hear from you

Do you have a great story idea, photos from a Pope Air Force Base related event or training or want to voice your opinion on an issue or previous story? Maybe you have a suggestion on what you would like to see in future issues of the Carolina Flyer. We want to hear from you.

Send story ideas and/or photos to carolina.flyer@pope.af.mil.

All photos should be 300 dpi and include a short description of what's going on in the photo and include names, rank and unit of all individuals who are focal points.

Story submission should

include name, rank and unit of author as well as a title. Accompanying photos should include photographer credit.

For information or questions, e-mail the staff at carolina.flyer@pope.af.mil.



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PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN KRIS LEVASSEUR

Members of the 43rd Security Forces Squadron and Cumberland County Department of Social Services pose after unloading more than 200 presents donated by personnel at Pope who donated gifts selected from a wish list made by the underprivileged children under the care of the CCDSS.

Pope holiday spirit

Pope donations ensure Merry Christmas for all

By Senior Airman Kristopher Levasseur
Staff Writer

Christmas is a time of year when families come together to celebrate and exchange gifts, but for some children around the Pope/Fort Bragg area who don't have families, it takes a little extra effort from caring individuals to ensure they have a happy holiday.

Team Pope members donated more than 200 gifts to local underprivileged children under the care of the Cumberland County Department of Social Services in an effort to bring joy to those



Airman 1st Class Robert Gay, 43rd Security Forces Squadron, carries presents into the main building for the Cumberland County Department of Social Services Dec. 14.

in need.

"This event is one of many great ways for those who have a little extra to give to make Christmas wonderful for a large group of children," said Tech. Sgt. Steven Kennedy, 440th Security Forces Squadron. "Due to the economy I was a little concerned that we would not be able to make our goal of 198 children. I was amazed with the response I received

from our unit and the great people at the wing."

Sergeant Kennedy added that even though donors were asked to provide one item, many went above and beyond by providing several items per donation. Because of this, most of the children will receive two to five gifts each.

Without the help of many Pope members, we would not have met our goal.



PHOTOS BY RHONDA GRIFFIN

A group of children got a special holiday shopping trip Tuesday when they visited Santa's Attic. Hosted by Pope's Airman and Family Readiness Center, the program allows children ages 3 to 11 to enjoy milk and cookies, pick out a gift for Mom and Dad, visit with Santa and make a holiday card. With the help of several volunteer "elves," the children shopped while their parents remained in a waiting room.

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PHOTOS BY MIKE MURCHISON

Top: The 43rd Civil Engineer Squadron runs along the Pope flightline during the Wing run Dec. 11. The group, led by Col. James Johnson, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander, the 2 mile course during the afternoon.



Right: Col. James Johnson, 43rd Airlift Wing Commander, stretches prior to the monthly Wing run Dec. 11. The Wing ran more than 2 miles around the Pope flightline.

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SOUTHEAST PAGING 2
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2 x 8.75

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HENDRICK CHRYSLER-PLYMOUTH-JEE
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Carolina Flyer MARKETPLACE

DEC. 18, 2009

www.pope.af.mil

Pope Chapel

315 Ethridge Street
394-2677

Religious services

For bible studies call the chapel

Traditional service:

Sunday, 8 a.m. except second Sundays

Contemporary service:

Sunday, 11:30 a.m.

Protestant Combined Worship:

11:30 a.m. the second Sunday of each month with potluck following services. Christmas Eve service at 7 p.m.

Sunday school (all ages):

10 a.m. at Pope Elementary School

Catholic services:

Sunday at 9:30 a.m. and 5 p.m.; Daily Mass Mondays and Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Mass and pageant at 5 p.m.

RCIA:

Contact 394-1856

CCD:

1:15 a.m. at Pope Elementary School

Services offered at Fort Bragg

Catholic service:

JFK Chapel, Ardennes Street, Saturday at 5 p.m. Confessions at 4 p.m.

Muslim or Orthodox Christian services

Call the Fort Bragg Chapel at 396-1121.

Officers' Christian Fellowship

Bible study on leadership, Wednesday at 6 a.m.

Jewish services

Contact the Faith Community Chapel Bldg. D-3733 Ardennes St. at 489-2094.

Wiccan ceremonies

The Watters Center on Fort Bragg holds an open circle Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

POPE SERVICES

Combat Support & Community Service

Kitty Hawk Inn

■ 394-4377

UTA weekend Saturday and Sunday:

Breakfast: 6 to 8 a.m.

Lunch: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dinner: 4 to 7 p.m.

Monday - Friday

Breakfast: 5:30 to 7 a.m.

Lunch: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dinner: 4 to 7 p.m.

Weekends, Holidays and downdays

Brunch: 7 a.m. to noon

Supper: 4 to 6 p.m.

Habaneros' Mexican Grill

■ 394-4580

Breakfast

Monday - Friday: 7:30 to

10:30 a.m.

Lunch

Daily: 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Information, Tickets and Travel

■ 394-4478 or 394-5462

Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Library

■ 394-2195

Monday - Thursday: 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Story time

Friday: "Scary Stories" 4 p.m.

Tuesday: "Scary Stories"

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Wood Shop

■ 394-5049

Tuesday - Thursday: 1 p.m.

to 8 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m.

to 5 p.m.

School Age Programs

■ 394-2869

Monday - Friday: 6 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Auto Hobby/Equipment Rental

■ 394-2293

Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Community Center

394-2779

Closed for renovation

Bowling Center

■ 394-2891

Monday - Thursday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday: 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Saturday: 11 a.m. to midnight

Sunday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Willow Lakes Golf Course

■ 394-GOLF

Closed

Fitness Center

■ 394-2671

Monday - Friday: 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Holidays and family days: 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Frame and Design Arts

■ 394-4192

Monday and Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday:

10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: Closed

Butler's Barber Shop

■ 394-4387

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mack's Barber Shop

■ 436-7718

Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Child Development Center

■ 394-4323/2724

Monday - Friday: 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call Helenmarie Beaudion at 394-1189.

It's the Hottest Game of the Season



SUPER BOWL BINGO

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 AT POPE CLUB • 394.2154

YOU COULD WIN CASH, NFL MEMORABILIA AND A TRIP TO SUPER BOWL XLIV!

Tickets are on sale now at Pope Club and ITT • \$50 for Club Members, \$60 for non-Members

Want a Rockin' way to ring New Year?

Pope Bowling Center

December 31st, 2009

5PM - 8PM

\$10 Per Person, Under 5 \$5

**Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 or older.*

Pope Bowling Center

December 31st, 2009

9PM - 2AM

Adults \$15

Youths (5-18) \$10

Children (under 5) \$5

2010 NEW YEARS EVE BOWLING PARTY

Call 394-2891 for reservations!

Pope Civilian Personnel Office job listings

■ Mechanical Engineering Tech, GS-0802-11

Starting Annual Salary: \$58,155

Description: performs professional mechanical engineering work in developmental capacity in support of an Air Force installation.

Also acquires competencies of thermodynamics, mechanics and other physical, mathematical and engineering sciences to resolved problems concerned with production, transmission, measurement and use of energy, especially heat and mechanical power.

■ Supv General Engineer, YF-0801-02

Salary Cap: \$58,141-

\$113,908

Description: plans, schedules, monitors and directs the accomplishment and technical reviews of engineering designs, involving application of structural, mechanical, electrical, architectural and civil engineering principals associated with preparation of plans, specifications and cost estimates.

■ Housing Management Asst, GS-1173-07

Starting Annual Salary: \$39,295

Description: This position is located at Pope and is open to current internal career employees Air Force wide. This job participates in resolving a variety of housing problems by assembling facts through interviews, monitoring complaints and other housing actions and issues. Also organizes periodic meetings, leads discussions, addresses problems of occupants and suggests ways of seeking assistance/relief.

■ Civil Engineer, YD-0810-02

Salary Cap: \$40,093-\$91,801

Description: The purpose of this position is to serve as projectmanager for the accomplishment of design and as project engineer during construction to assist the contracting officer in the surveillance of contract execution.

■ Readiness Program Specialist, GS-0301-09

Starting Annual Salary

\$48,066

Description: To provide support in managing the readiness program which includes disaster preparedness, air base operability, civil engineering prime base engineer emergency force and AF incident management systems programs.

■ Fire Protection Inspector, GS-0081-08

Starting Annual Salary: \$43,519

Description: The purpose of this position is to perform fire prevention/ fire protection and inspection duties designed to detect and reduce or eliminate fire hazards in high fire expectancy areas. Develops and conducts extensive fire protection and prevention education and training programs.

■ Child Development Operation Clerk GS-0303-05 (Temp)

Starting Annual Salary: \$31,723

Description: To provide a wide variety of administrative and office automation support for the Child Development Centers and to provide military, their family members and others with safe, healthy and developmentally appropriate environments to enhance quality of life.

■ Contract Specialist (Lead), YA-1102-02

Salary Cap: \$40,093-

\$91,801

Description: manage, supervise, perform or develop policies and procedures for professional work. The work requires knowledge of legislation, regulations and methods used in contracting; and knowledge of business and industry practices, sources of supply, cost factors and requirements characteristics.

The Civilian Personnel office will provide updates each week.

This listing is current as of Dec 18.

To apply for the job vacancies listed above, visit the following Web sites:

External applicants - www.usajobs.gov; Internal applicants - https://ww2.afpc.randolph.af.mil/resweb/search_by_state_nlo.asp.



MOVIES

Pope Theater

Armistead, Pope

Friday: The 4th Kind (PG-13)

Saturday: Amelia (PG) 4 p.m.; A Christmas Carol (PG) 7 p.m.

Sunday: Astro Boy (PG) 4 p.m.; Men Who Stare At Goats (R) 7 p.m.

(Courtesy of www.aafes.com)

Tickets are \$2 for adults and \$1.50 for children 12 and younger.

NEW RELEASE



Brothers

By Dawn Elizabeth Pandoliano
Staff writer

For all this movie's good intentions, the very serious message it was putting out and the unlikely cast, it was pretty much a Lifetime movie of the week — on the big screen. 'Brothers' is a remake of a Danish film of the same name and you have to wonder if they couldn't have just subtitled it and released it in the U.S. as an indie film for the art house theaters? Oh, but then you wouldn't get to cast pretty people in normal roles.

'Brothers' tells the story of a dutiful Marine and family man, played by Tobey Maguire, who deploys to the Middle East. When his helicopter is shot down, he is

thought to be dead by everyone back home. What happens from the time he is captured to the time he is rescued is eye opening and gut wrenching and with one scene in particular, you hate him and forgive him at the same time.

Back home his wife, played by Natalie Portman is devastated and finds an unlikely friend and companion in her husband's brother, Jake Gyllenhaal, the ex-con black sheep of the family who gets a taste of his brother's family for a short time and likes it. Now, you might be thinking this is a recipe for trouble and you could be right. Except that Tobey isn't dead and he comes back to a family who has almost gotten used to him being gone.

If you can get past the babyfaced cast, the excessive amount of brooding, the fact

that Jake and Natalie look like a cuter couple than Tobey and Natalie, this is actually a pretty good movie.

Should you go see this film?

It's not a date movie, that's for sure. However, this is the perfect flick to help you realize that there are people who have it bad. You will definitely appreciate your life and those who fight to make it possible for you to live it in a free country.

Starring: Tobey Maguire, Jake Gyllenhaal and Natalie Portman.

Rated: R for language and some disturbing violent content.

Check your local theater for times and listings.



Pope Community

Highlighting the events and people around Pope Air Force Base

Gift of Life

Airman, husband, face challenges, celebrate daughter's first holiday

By Rhonda Griffin
Staff writer

Welcoming a new bundle of joy is an exciting and challenging time for parents. But learning the shocking news that your precious little gift has been born with health complications is a blow that many new parents have a difficult time comprehending.

Staff Sgt. Christina Baxter, 43rd Force Support Squadron, had experienced a relatively normal pregnancy and, during the routine prenatal testing, she and her husband, Army Staff Sgt. Steven Baxter, learned they were expecting a little girl. At Womack Army Medical Center, Jade Skye Baxter came into the world on Feb. 24 at 8:06 a.m.

Little did the happy couple know that their lives were about to change in more ways than they could ever

expect.

"She has Down syndrome," they were told by the doctors.

"It was like someone punched me in the face," Sergeant S. Baxter said.

Within 30 minutes after she was born, Jade was taken to the neonatal intensive care unit with the proud new dad running back and forth between his wife and child.

Two weeks and many tests later, Jade was transferred to Chapel Hill, where she was diagnosed with more complications including laryngomalacia, or "floppy airway," which restricts breathing. At only one month old, she was given a bronchoscopy. A tracheotomy followed one week later.

After two terrifying months of watching their baby girl struggling

to hold on with everything she had, the Baxters were finally able to have more confidence that Jade's condition was improving.

Though the following months brought about more tests and another surgery to insert a feeding tube, the couple has adjusted well to caring for Jade's needs. Her consistent improvements have also helped to lighten their load when they take her on outings.

"She loves being out and about," Sergeant S. Baxter said. "We used to have to lug a bunch of stuff around. Now we're down to just one piece of equipment."

This holiday season will be an extremely special one for the family. On Christmas Eve, little Jade will be 10 months old.

With the help of many programs for children with exceptional needs, including Ft. Bragg's Early Intervention and Exceptional

Family Members programs and the Triangle Down Syndrome Network, the little girl is keeping up with others her age.

"She's meeting all of the milestones as if she were a normal child," Sergeant C. Baxter said. "She's more advanced than other Down's syndrome babies with less complications."

The couple is enjoying watching Jade grow and develop.

"She's trying to crawl now," Sergeant C. Baxter said, "but she goes backwards instead of forward. She lifts her arms when she wants to be held."

"Her heart, lungs and brain are all normal," her husband added. "In all actuality, she just has the extra chromosome."

"We've been told that, before they are born, children with special needs pick their parents," said Sergeant C. Baxter. "Jade picked us."



Airman living his dream

By Irvin Gourdine
Staff Writer

Many happy memories are devoted to a time with the family, watching a favorite game show, sitting with family and friends, yelling at the T.V. screen at the wrong answers while responding to the questions as if participating. It isn't uncommon to place one's self in the moment to be a contestant, to have the spotlight and know the answer that will win the big bucks. For one Airman the dream of being on his favorite game show became a reality.

Airman 1st Class Christopher Zayas, 43rd Civil Engineer Squadron, was given the opportunity of a lifetime when he was contacted to be a contestant on the game show he'd enjoyed since he was a kid, "Wheel of Fortune." As one of the show's more than 90 million American fans, the Airman was beside himself when he discovered he was to become a contestant.

"I've been watching the show forever," Airman Zayas said. "I always wanted to be a contestant. I knew I could do well if I was given the opportunity." It is not often that dreams such as his come to reality, especially in the manner it did for the Airman. According to the show's Web site, more than 10,000 people audition for the show, and only about 600 are able to compete. This fact alone makes the Airman's story an extraordinary one.

The Airman was personally contacted for the week, as one of only a few servicemembers to receive an invitation to audition for the show's special "Heroes Week." The week's contestants are active duty members of the military and have the chance to win cash, prizes and even a new car. Not only that, the week offers the chance to win a vacation in either Jamaica or Puerto Vallarta.

He was nothing but eager when he received the news. He explained that he rarely is nervous and rather than hesitating about this once in a lifetime chance, he dove right in and began to prep for the



Airman 1st Class Christopher Zayas, 43rd Civil Engineer Squadron, (right) competes on the "Wheel of Fortune" game show during the show's Hero's Week, airing today. For full results on how the Airman compete, watch tonight's episode at 7:30 p.m. on NBC.

show. To prepare, the Airman did what he enjoyed the most - watched the show. "I watched as much 'Wheel of Fortune' as I could just to brush up on my skills."

He also had the help of the 43rd CE members. Airman Zayas' fellow fighterfighters, Master Sgt. Andre Sanders, Staff Sgt. Casey Videtto and Airmen 1st Class Brett Carpenter and Martin Young, helped him to prepare each night on duty by hosting mock game shows in the fire department's training room.

Airman Zayas said his knees were shaking a little while in the studio before the taping began. "As soon as the first puzzle got out of the way, though, I was fine," he said, in true fan fashion.

He did take the time to enjoy the scenery of the set, not only remarking on the patriotic decorations, but also on hostess Vanna White's attire. "Before we started taping, Vanna White walked by in a shirt and jeans and came up and greeted us all and wished us luck," Airman Zayas said. "I didn't even know she owned a shirt and

jeans," he said, laughing.

Another interesting fact about Vanna, aside from her penchant for extravagant dresses, is that she is listed in the 1992 "Guinness Book of World Records," as the world's most frequent clapper. The book cites her for clapping more than 28,000 times a season, which averages to about 720 times per show.

Don't try asking this Airman how he did on the show, however. As per an agreement made with the show's producers, his lips are sealed about his results during the taping, but he assures all those who are interested to "tune in at 7:30 p.m. to find out!"

The week began Monday and concludes today. Participants from the Coast Guard, Army, Marine, Navy and Air Force all took part in taping the show Oct. 16. Airman Zayas was one of three Airmen on the show. He competed against a Navy and Marine during the taping, which will air 7:30 tonight on NBC. His results will also be posted on the Web after the final show airs.

Pope AFB
Mission Statement
Support joint forces contingency outload and in-garrison operational/training requirements. Provide worldwide air mobility capabilities across the spectrum of military operations. Execute Pope's realignment in compliance with the BRAC mandate.

43rd Airlift Wing
Vision Statement

The Air Force's premiere Airlift Group for enroute operations and total force partnerships with Pope Field established as a sought-after place to work and live.



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SANDHILLS GOLF ASSOCIATION

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OPERATION TOY DROP



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN PETER MILLER

The first lift of paratroopers was loaded on the 440th C-130 in the early morning Sunday, and by late that day more than 1,000 paratroopers had donated a toy to get the opportunity to jump into Fort Bragg's Sicily Drop Zone. Other crews from the National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing from Charlotte, N.C. and the Air Force Reserve's 910th Airlift Wing from Youngstown, Ohio participated in the 12th Annual Randy Oler Operation Toy Drop event.

Everybody knows that Santa is a Paratrooper

By Capt. Lauri Turpin
440th Airlift Wing

You know Dasher and Dancer and Prancer and Vixen. But on Dec. 6 at Pope, it was not a team of reindeer, but Maj. Jeff Dasher, a navigator in the 95th Airlift Squadron, who guided the mission for the 440th Airlift Wing's C-130 that flew a group of Soldier Santas across the morning sky.

One might say he was born for this mission. "It's the name," Major Dasher said, laughing. "I had to be on this flight."

His flight was a part of the 12th annual Randy Oler Memorial Operation Toy Drop, a program sponsored by Ft. Bragg and Pope providing toys to needy children in the Fayetteville, N.C. area. The toys, donated by the participating service members, are delivered to children in time for Christmas.

More than 1,200 Army paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division and 18th Airborne Corps suited up in their jump gear to be a part of the charity event that brought participants from as far away as Germany.

Col. Merle D. Hart, 440th Airlift Wing Commander, greeted the paratroopers as they checked their gear, and marched toward the flight line to board Major Dasher's C-130.

"I'm proud that the 440th can be a part of this operation," Colonel Hart said. "This is a great outreach that our soldiers can provide and a token of our support to the children of other military members and the local community."

This year, the 440th AW, in conjunction with the 145th Air National Guard Airlift Wing from Charlotte, NC, and the 910th Air Force Reserve Airlift Wing from

Youngstown, Ohio, provided airlift for the day's event.

Since its inception 12 years ago, the program has become so popular that Airman paratroopers have to win a lottery in order to participate. To enter the lottery, each individual must buy a toy for one of the needy area children. Though only 1,200 lucky winners actually jump, far more choose to participate and bring donated gifts to Ft. Bragg.

"They have a massive wrapping session," said Lt. Col. William Whittenberger, 440th Operations Group Commander. "A lot of the wives and families help out; it becomes a big party."

Colonel Whittenberger was mission commander for this year's Toy Drop and also piloted one of the C-130s.

"We've got 1,200 troops to drop in a fairly short time frame, so we're doing a parallel running course

that's 17 miles long, and it is about 12 minutes from take off to drop," he said. "Our goal is five minutes between each air frame."

For Private First Class Caleb Wood, a 20-year-old Soldier stationed at Ft. Bragg, it would be only his sixth jump. Pfc. Wood, along with other members of his platoon, waited in the Passenger Terminal Three shelter on the Pope flightline as other Soldiers methodically yanked on parachute straps, tugged on helmets and ran expert hands over their gear.

"It's my first year doing this," said Pfc. Wood, who looked impossibly young, seated among the scores of older, more experienced paratroopers. "I bought a tricycle to support the event."

As Pfc. Wood stood in line for his turn, 1st Lt. Judith Wood, 126th Transportation Co., 82nd Sustainment Brigade, waited for her turn to



The first paratrooper to jump waited for the "green light" indicating for the gentle nudge to exit the aircraft.

climb inside the fuselage of a C-130 to jump.

"I enjoy this because it's a rush, and it's great for the kids," she said. "I hope I'm here again next year. They tell you not to look down, but when you're there you can't help it. We ask ourselves why we're doing this, but when we jump it's all worth it."

Seated on the bleachers set out in the red sand against the stark-winter blue sky, family members waited alongside the Sicily Drop Zone located on the far side of Ft. Bragg for their loved ones. As the C-130 approached, they held up their hands to shield their eyes against the glare of the sun. The plane flew in smoothly, and one-by-one the dark silhouettes of the soldiers dipped out of the plane and snapped straight as one after another their parachutes ballooned into perfect mushrooms.

The line of parachutes stretched along the field, as those soldiers who had already completed their flight marched in formation past the bleachers.

Meghan Scott and her husband, Army Captain Andrew Scott of the Air Defense Battalion, donated a Candyland game.

"(Captain Scott) loves to jump, and it's a great way to help out," she said. "We're very fortunate to live the way we do, so this is just a small way to give back."

It's striking that during a year of financial turmoil and incessant deployments, so many servicemembers volunteer their time, effort and money to support those less fortunate.

For more than 1,000 children, these Soldiers and Airmen flew in a promise to them that they would have a very Merry Christmas. It's the spirit of the season, but it's also a hallmark of the beliefs of our Armed Forces - that service to others is not just a saying; it's a way of life.

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